

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-16, 18, 21-24, 26-29, 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,442,209 to *Funahashi*.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 5, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Funahasi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,899,895 to Tannery. The Examiner has also rejected claims 14, 17, 20 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of *Funahashi* in view of *Faber*.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 19 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Funahashi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,360,658 to *Benson*.

With respect to the rejections to independent claims 1 and 21, it is respectfully submitted that the patent to *Funahashi*

does not disclose engaging elements as compared to that of the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 21.

For example, both claims 1 and 21 disclose engaging elements on both the stamp plate and also on the stamp plate carrier. This feature is not shown in *Funahashi*.

It appears that if the elements 5 and 6 of *Funahashi* are not disposed both on a stamp plate and also on a stamp plate carrier as claimed in claims 1 and 21.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that this *Funahashi* patent also does not disclose either the stamp plate, or the frame as claimed in the present invention in claims 1 and 21.

It is respectfully submitted that it would also not be obvious to arrive at the present invention as claimed in claims 5 and 25 because while claims 5 and 25 depend on allowable claims 1 and 21, the reference to *Tannery* in combination with *Funahashi* respectfully should not result in a rejection of claims 5 and 25.

Claims 5 and 25 have been amended to include the term "snap

fit" which is identified as a feature of the engaging elements in the specification on page 3.

It is respectfully submitted that the features of *Tannery* could not provide a "snap fit" type connection. Rather the trapezoidal shape found in *Tannery* only allows for the sliding of the stamp into the associated grooves.

With respect to the above rejection in view of *Funahashi* and *Faber*, or the rejection in view of *Funahashi* and *Benson*, it is respectfully submitted that because amended claims 1 and 21 are patentable as amended, their associated dependent claims are also patentable.

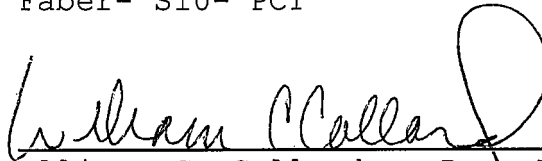
In summary, claims 1 and 21 have been amended to overcome the above cited rejections. Claims 13 and 31 have been canceled with the features of claims 13 and 31 being added to claims 1 and 21. In addition, claims 1-12, 14-30 and 33-34 have been amended to remove associated reference numerals. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

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Applicant respectfully request that a timely Notice of
Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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